The Wobbly Oscillator

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

May 2018 Volume 48 Number 5

From The Prez

Hamvention Bus

We are so lucky. The world's largest gathering of ham radio operators, amateur radio equipment displays, manufactures representatives, used equipment and informational forums happens right down the road from us. Yep, the Hamvention. Last year the Hamvention was relocated from the decrepit Hara Arena in Dayton to the brighter Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia. Almost everyone liked the new digs much better. If you didn't go last year, but have been to Hamventions in the past, it would be well worth the trip to seen the new look. An added convenience is the CARS sponsored bus. For fifty bones you can travel first class with you pals down and back on Saturday, May 19th. All the details and sign up information is on the CARS website.

Repeater Up

A diligent effort by our Technical team moved our main repeater from Parma to a temporary site in Brunswick. The team led by Vince, N8OVW, and Scott, AC8NW, removed the equipment from the Parma site, transported everything to Brunswick, skillfully installed the equipment and had the repeater operational in **three** hours. Although the location is temporary, the repeater has served the club admirably for the weekly nets and general use. Vince has been periodically tweaking the machine improving its performance. Thanks guys.

Field Day

The biggest ham radio operating event of the year is less than two months away. We will be operating at Calvin Park in Seven Hills June 23rd and 24th. At the May meeting we will be asking members to volunteer as operators. We always need more operators, especially at night. Not only will we award any operator a certificate for making a contact, we will present a Field Day coffee mug to operators who make a contact between midnight and six in the morning.

(Continued next page)

My Changing Role

I have been an active member of just about every CARS committee and activity for a long, long time. I have never missed a meeting in sixteen years. I could count on my toes the nets I have missed in the same period. Now I have become editor of this newsletter. Being spread too thin, I must step away from certain tasks and rely on dedicated members. Asking for volunteers at meetings usually yields a response of blank faces. If necessary, I will have to solicit individuals on a face to face basis to fill the voids.

I also hear **"We ought to…"** from well-intentioned members with very good ideas. The problem is, ideas by themselves don't accomplish anything. Take that good idea and run with it. Make it happen, or get help from another member and team up to make it happen,

73, Toby, WT8O

Dave Andrzejewski, KD8TWG, discusses radio testing at the April meeting.

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society
April 10th 2018 Business Meeting Minutes

The CARS membership was called to order by President Toby Kolman, WT8O, at 7:30 PM on the 10th day of the month at the Busch Community room. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and introductions were made by the members and guests. The March 13th 2018 Business meeting minutes were approved as they appeared in the April 2018 *Wobbly Oscillator.*

Bob, W8GC, gave the report on the treasury balance.

The following recently licensed Amateurs were voted into the club as NEW members,

1. Marcus Just, KE8JCR
2. Mike Smith, KE8JCU
3. Rafaela "RJ" Picciano, KE8JCS
4. Nolan Pearce, KE8JCT
5. James Stewart, KE8JCW
6. Chris Jochum, KE8JLW

Mark, WJ8WM, stated that there was a Skywarn training class on April 19th at the Independence Civic Center. Registration is not required. The training starts at 6 PM.

(Continued next page)

Larry, N8OWS, had no report.

Public service information for 2018 is available in the *Wobbly Oscillator* as well as the CARS Facebook page. The links will direct you to the appropriate web page for the event.

Bill, KD8QBB, has been working to fill the program schedule for the remainder of the year so if you have any ideas contact Bill.

Metro, W8MET, stated that there was one NEW Technician and one General class upgrade as a result of the latest CARS training class. The next VE session is May 13th, 2018 at the OLD Elmwood Recreation center next to Elmwood Pond in Elmwood Park. Sessions begin at 9:00 AM.

If you are interested in riding the CARS bus to Hamvention, contact Metro, W8MET. The cost is $50 dollars. Currently there are 10 people signed up.

The bus trip to the ARRL in April currently has 11 people signed up to go. The club needs 25 to make the trip work. Toby stated that they are postponing the trip until later on in the year.

The 146.82 repeater was relocated to Brunswick, Ohio. The Digital updates are on hold.

There was no NEW business.

Field Day is once again at Calvin Park in Seven Hills.
The Field Day committee meeting will be in May.

Bob, W8GC, won the 50/50 raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

There were 27 members and guests in attendance this evening.

Dave Andrzejewski, KD8TWG, brought along his test equipment and did some portable radio testing and a presentation along with Bob Mueller, K8MD.

Submitted by Larry Shimerka, N8OWS.

Welcome New Members

Marcus Just, KE8JCR

Mike Smith, KE8JCU

Rafaela "RJ" Picciano, KE8JCS

Nolan Pearce, KE8JCT

James Stewart, KE8JCW

Chris Jochum, KE8JLW

CARS Training Class
Metro, W8MET

Our training class was a success. With instructor's Toby, WT8O; Joel, K8SHB; and David, KD8ACO, we have one new Technician and one upgrade from General to Extra. David L. Lind, N8LDL, upgraded from General to Extra, and Christopher S. Jochum passed his Technician exam and his call letters are KE8JLW. VE's present were Joel, K8SHB, Larry, N8OWS and Gary, NI8Z.

Member Profile
Mike Kemmett, KD8OUE

How did you become interested in ham radio?
I served in the US Navy as a Radioman, so, radio communications has always been an interest of mine. I had the pleasure of meeting quite a few Ham Radio Operators while stationed at the Navy MARS Headquarters radio station, so that was my 'introduction' to Amateur Radio.

What made you decide to take the test?
When I was still employed at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), as an IT Specialist, one of my co-workers had recently taken his technician class license test, and brought his handheld to work, which led us to have a few discussions concerning his radio and it's uses. That, and the fact that I was nearing retirement, re-sparked my interest in Ham Radio so I looked into what was required to get a license. Then, I did some studying, and took the plunge.

When did you get your license(s)?
In October of 2010, I took the Technician and General tests at one of the CARS VE sessions.

What are your base station radios and antennas?
The radios that I have are the Kenwood TS-590S, and an Anytone 5888U. The antennas that I use are a roof mounted Comet CH-250 vertical, and a J-pole mounted on the chimney.

What is your "go to" base station HF radio?
The Kenwood TS-590S

What is your mobile set up?
I use a Wouxon handheld. I do not have a radio in my car.

The operating position at KD8OUE

What are your favorite on air activities?
I've not had the pleasure of being on the air for quite some time now, but while I was able to be more active, I enjoyed making contacts around the world, working contests, and using the Digital Modes.

Why did you join CARS?
CARS was the club that sponsored the VE session where I passed my exams, and it was one of the clubs closest to my home.

What would you like to see CARS do to improve?
During my time with CARS, I have seen an increase in member participation, but there is much room for improvement in that area. Members need to continue to step up and assist with the committees, help with putting together the monthly newsletter, giving presentations at meetings, etc, etc.

Anything else you would like to say?
In the past year, I've seen improvement in the direction that CARS is moving, and I only hope that the membership will continue to support the efforts, and assist in moving the club forward. Members need to keep in mind that CARS exists to serve ALL ham operators and not just the members. After all, isn't that what Ham Radio is all about?!

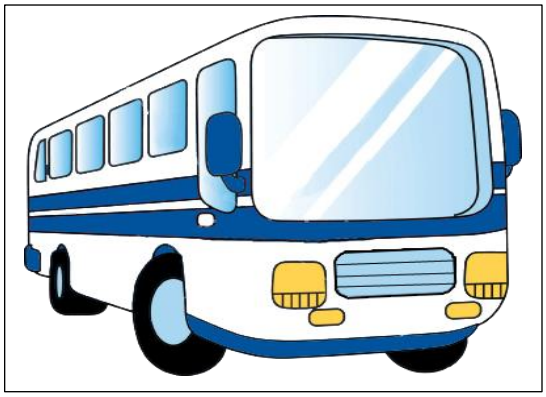
Greetings from the Tech Committee
Scott, AC8NW

As many of you have noticed, spring is trying to push winter aside, with winter putting up a good fight. Spring will prevail, rest assured, and that means it is time to get outside and look over our antennas, feedlines, and grounding systems for any damage winter may have done. While the ground side is not susceptible to wind and ice damage, corrosion can degrade the various screw/clamp connections and increase resistance in the ground path. Good to loosen connections, clean and polish up the mating surfaces, and reassemble.

Last month, the WO announced that the repeater would be out of service due to having to vacate the Parma site. While this was true, the repeater was only down about three and a half hours. Vince, N8OVW, and I, with help from Toby, WT8O, and Mark, KC8ESG, were able to get the repeater moved to a temporary site at Brunswick, with minimal downtime. The coverage at the new site has proven to be quite serviceable. The remote link from Shaker Heights is still functional, helping the coverage. The 444.750 Shaker repeater also is online, and was proven on a simulcast net along with the regular net on 146.82 a couple of weeks ago. The 443.825 repeater is NOT in service at this time, but we expect to put it back in service, once we get an official blessing to move again to another site in Brecksville, which should improve coverage. Other upgrades to the controller and voting system are also in the works. Kudos go to Vince, especially for his expertise and connections. It would not have been possible without him.

That's about all I have for right now, and we are looking forward to seeing some of you on the Hamvention Bus. Seats are still available, contact Metro, W8MET, to reserve yours. Speaking of Hamvention, I especially look forward to seeing my father Jerry, NW9H, who will be making the trip to Hamvention with three of his Ham buddies from way back. May 19th also happens to be his birthday, so that is kind of special.

Till next month, 73, Scott, AC8NW



Hamvention Bus

CARS is again sponsoring a bus trip to the Hamvention May 19, 2018. The time is now if you want to go on the bus. Just contact Metro, W8MET, 216-520-1320 or email him at metro351@sbcglobal.net to reserve your seat. For details, go to our website, www.2cars.org

May Birthdays

John Chesna, KC8WBH 5/6

Mike Mraz, KA8MZS 5/12/40

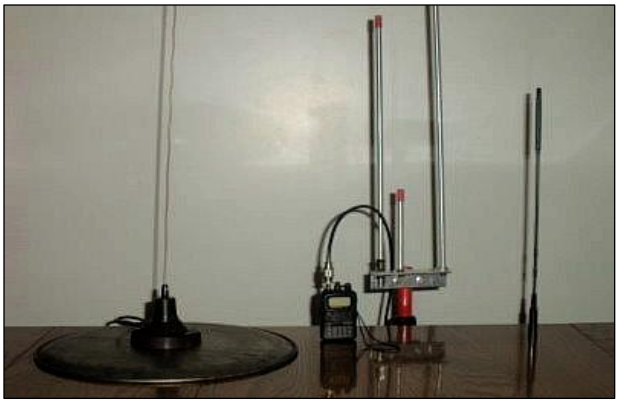
Bill Kemmett, KD8QBB 5/13/47

John Papay, K8YSE, 5/15

Ron Borkey Sr., K8VJG 5/20/32

If your birthday is in May, and not mentioned here, please contact the editor and our list will be updated.

Enhancing your HT
Toby, WT8O



A Mag mount on a pizza pan, an HT with coax adapter, a J-pole and a HT gain antenna are pictured left to right.

Like most newly licensed Technicians, my first radio was an HT. I purchased a used Yaesu VX-5R from my Elmer, Gordon, AI8Y. After sixteen years of service, my trusty Yaesu is still operating splendidly. Gordon threw in a few accessories, including a dual band **gain** antenna. The gain antenna showed great improvement over the standard "rubber duck." I was able to receive signals clearly that I could not even hear with the rubber duck. I also had better success hitting repeaters with the gain antenna. Many manufactures make these antennas. Diamond and Comet are two that I know work well.

Often times an amateur's signal will sound weak or scratchy. He or she may mention they are transmitting with an HT and a rubber duck. There is an easy way to significantly improve the signal. Using a better antenna on the ol' HT will really make a difference. We already mentioned the gain antenna, which will work great for portable use. Going a step further, a good mobile antenna and magnetic mount can be used at the home QTH or in a vehicle. Besides the antenna and mag mount, all that's needed is an adapter to connect the coax to an HT. A steel pizza pan, a file cabinet or the top of a refrigerator will make for a decent ground plane. In a car, one can use the roof, deck lid or hood for the mag mount. Most mag mounts come with about 15 feet of coax. Maybe even better for stationary use, would be the use of the ever popular J-pole antenna. A big advantage to a J-pole is that it can be built on the cheap. There are a zillion construction methods on the interweb. The J-pole in the attached picture was store bought, but home brewed versions work just as well. One of the antennas mentioned will certainly improve your signal. An old timer told me a ham is judged by the quality of his signal. The addition of an upgraded antenna will definitely improve the signal from your HT.

Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, SK

Barry M. Goldwater was born in Phoenix, Arizona Territory, on New Year's Day 1909. (Arizona became the 48th State on February 14, 1912). Senator Goldwater died on May 29, 1998 at the age of 89. He had suffered a stroke in 1986 and had been in failing health ever since. Barry was a Major General in the USAF Reserve, and retired in 1967 after 37 years of both active and inactive duty. He was very active in Air Force MARS, and during the Vietnam conflict his Phoenix station was used to provide many tens of thousands of phone patches from service personnel in Southeast Asia to loved ones back home in the States.

During his time in Congress, Senator Goldwater supported the right to vote for people 18 years or older, repealed the Military Selective Service Act, and was responsible for the "Goldwater Amateur Radio" legislation that established the VEC program, the Amateur Auxiliary, and exempted Ham Radio from the secrecy provisions in the Communications Act of 1934. This important legislation also permitted the FCC to set RFI susceptibility standards for home electronic equipment. Barry was the President of QCWA in 1972-1973. He was a Life Member of ARRL, and **Life Member of the Central Arizona DX Association**. While living in Washington D.C., Barry maintained the call sign K3UIG. Barry received his first Amateur radio license in 1922 with the call 6BPI. In 1964 Barry was the Republican nominee for President of the United States. Barry Goldwater died on May 29, 1998

[Reprinted from *QRZ*]

The Random Wire
Tom Wayne, WB8N

Howdy fellow Hamsters...
Once again, it's the ole Dukester, reporting from Bedford, Ohio. Hasn't been much going on over on this part of the East side, just the usual crapola. FINALLY warming up a bit, although we are still at about 20 degrees less than it should be for this time of year.

How many are going to the Hamvention this year? If you've never been you should go at LEAST once while you're still kicking. CARS is sponsoring a bus again and the price is very reasonable! I've decided not go this year, as I've said before, I've been many times before but just can't make it this year. There's all kinds of good junk (boat anchors?) in the flea market, plus all the latest new stuff inside. You can meet & chat with all the bigshots of Ham Radio, the owners of all the Ham Radio companies, etc.

Have you been out there getting your antennas ready to rock and roll? I've only got a multi band vertical in the back yard and a wire antenna strung between two trees in the back also. It's about 30 feet up and works pretty well on HF, and I have a two element quad on a 40 ft. tower in the back yard as well. Only trouble is, it's stuck in a sort of Northeast direction right now. I think the guy that cuts my grass cut the wire to the controller. I'll have to see about repairing that soon. And last but not least, I have a vhf/uhf vertical strapped to my chimney. All those antennas and I haven't been on the air much of late. I'll have to remedy that ASAP. I've even been lax about making the net each time. I guess it's old age setting in?

Well boys & gals, that's about it for this month. Hope to see ya'll at the next meeting.
I'll say adios and 73, muchachas and mucahchos, and ride my pony on outta here.

Quiz: "Out through the back door of Rose's I ran, out where the horses were tied. I caught a good one, it looked like could run. Up on its back and away I did ride. Just as fast as I could from the town of .. …., out to the badlands of New Mexico."

What song are those lyrics from & who sang it? You can email me with your answer, call my cell at 216-347-4273, or wait 'til you see me in person. If you have the correct answer, I'll buy you an adult beverage of your choice, at a location of your choice, within reason.

73 again
de Tom, (The Dukester) WB8N.

May Net Schedule

MAY	2	K8KR
MAY	9	KD8ACO
MAY	16	WT8O
MAY	2 3	AC8NW
MAY	30	KD8OUE

Nets are run at 9:00 PM on 146.82 (PL 110.9)

Honorary Members

Any person who by nature of outstanding or meritorious contribution to the furtherance of amateur radio and the ideals of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

Robert Check, W8GC
Elected 2/10/15

Thomas Wayne, WB8N
Elected 1/10/17

Dwaine Modock, K8ME, SK
Elected 5/9/17

Toby Kolman, WT8O
Elected 10/10/17

Peep from the Veep
Mark, WJ8WM

The Seven Hills Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday, May 28th. We will be lining up the participants from St. Columbkille church at 6740 Broadview Rd. starting at 9:00 am. If you would like to help this year please be there at 8:30. Bring your HT and a reflective shirt or vest.

Please let me know if you will be joining us after the parade for pancakes.

I'm going to remind everyone Lighthouse Weekend is August 18th and 19th this year. If the club would like to activate a lighthouse, we need someone to take point. We will need to select a lighthouse and obtain the necessary clearances to operate from there.

One of the proudest functions of this club is mentoring. It is as part of our Special Service Club designation. To that end we are still looking for a youth organization to get involved with. Getting young people involvement is the only way for amateur radio hobby to continue and prosper. Any suggestions from the membership would be welcome. Feel free to reach out to another local school or scouting troop.

Food for thought. I'm taking the temperature of the membership of combining Field Day and the summer picnic together next year. Give me a yah or nah or your thoughts.

Seven Hills Memorial Day Parade

As Mark mentioned, CARS will be providing communications and assisting with operations again this year for the Seven Hills Memorial Day Parade. Our service to the city over the past few years has given our club the status of "Recognized Organization" with the community. City officials have praised our efforts and reciprocated in various ways: such as allowing us the use of Calvin Park for Field Day at no charge, giving us free use of the Community Room for our licensing classes and providing us the opportunity to profit from our involvement in the raffles held during the "Taste of Seven Hills" dinner. Let's keep our history of having a good turnout from the club to support for the Memorial Day Parade.

Larry, N8OWS, and Scott, AC8NW, show some real style as they maintain control at last year's Memorial Day parade.

"THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP YOUR HEALTH IS TO EAT WHAT YOU DON'T WANT, DRINK WHAT YOU DON'T LIKE AND DO WHAT YOU'D RATHER NOT."

MARK TWAIN

Metro's Picks

ON-THE-AIR

May 12, 2300–May 13, 0300 50 MHz Spring Sprint CW Ph Dig sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints

May 12, 1700–2100 3.5-28 FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint CW fistsna.org

Special Events Stations

Honoring Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, SK

May 28-June 3, 0000-2359, **K7UGA,** Phoenix, AZ. Central Airzona DX Association. **Memorial Day.** All bands, all modes. QSL Bob Davies, K7BHM, 1623 N. Los Altos Ct., Chandler, AZ 85224. www.cadxa.org

May 6-May 13, 2200-0400 **W9IMS** for the Grand Prix of Indianapolis and May 21-May27, 2200-0400 for the Indianapolis 500 will be active SSB on 21.350, 14.245, 7.245, and 3.840. Certificate and QSL available. www.qrz.com/db/w9ims

Certificates and QSL are available for the above events.

State QSO Parties

May 5, 1300-May 6, 0700 1.8-144 CW Ph Dig 7th Call Area QSO Party ws7n.net/7QP

May 5, 1500–May 6, 0300 1.8-28 CW Ph Indiana QSO Party www.hdxcc.org/ingp

May 5, 1700–May 6, 2359 1.8-VHF CW Ph Delaware QSO Party www.fsarc.org

May 5, 2000-May 6, 2359 3.5-28 CW Ph Dig New England QSO Party www.negp.org

May 12, 1400-May 13, 0200 3.5-28, 144 CW Ph Dig Arkansas QSO Party www.arkqp.com

May 14, 0000–May 14, 0200 1.8-28 CW Ph 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint www.4sqrp.com

Participating is FUN, FUN, FUN...ENJOY!

Info from *QST* May 2018 Pg. 83, 94 and 95 - All times in GMT ZULU time

The *Wobbly Oscillator* is a publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 31264, Independence, Ohio, 44131-0264. Articles from this publication may be reprinted in any ham radio publication, provided that credit is given this publication and the author, if known. All submissions should be emailed to: wt8o@att.net by the end of the month for publication in the next month's issue.

Please reserve and pay for your "*2018 Hamvention*" ride to Xenia, OH Bus Trip ASAP.

Saturday May 19, 2018 CARS is again sponsoring a Bus trip to the *"2018 Hamvention"* 2ndt time now at the Green County Fairgrounds, Xenia, OH.

Every amateur radio operator in the world probably dreams about going to the Hamvention (formerly Dayton Hamvention) at least once. Please join us in 2018, it is an incredible event, 2nd year in this Venue and offers something for everyone.

The Bus trip will cost $50.00 dollars per person, we will not stop for breakfast on the way down, but there may be a fast food stop on the way home. You are responsible for both your food and Hamvention tickets. Go to *http://www.hamvention.org/tickets.php* to order your tickets. ***The Bus is wheel-chair accessible***

Stop 1: The 56 passenger bus will leave promptly at 5:00 am from the Kmart parking lot at the intersection of Engle and Bagley Roads, in Middleburg Heights, Engle Road is 1/4 mile west of I-71, Kmart is behind the Gas station. Vehicles will be safe, there is security.

Stop 2: The bus will also pickup riders at I-71 & Rt 303 at the SE corner of the Kmart parking lot and will depart for Xenia at approximately 5:30 am.

When ordering tickets please tell us which stop you will be at, plus we need your email info, name, call and phone number.

Bus tickets must be purchased and paid for in advance.

***If you have any questions please see Metro W8MET at a CARS meeting or call him at 216-520-1320. Checks must be made out to CARS and mailed to: Metro Sinko W8MET, 6511 Elmarge Dr., Independence, OH 44131* attn. Xenia bus**

73, Metro, W8MET